

ANGOLA—Supporting the *Lusaka Protocol*

In November 1994, after twenty years of civil war, the government of the Republic of Angola and representatives of the National Union for Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) signed the historic *Lusaka Protocol* peace agreement. The years of conflict had devastated the country's infrastructure, internally displaced more than a million people, and resulted in the exodus of several hundred thousand others who found refuge in neighboring states. Much of Angola's fertile agricultural zones were littered with anti-personnel land mines, severely impeding resettlement and economic recovery.

OTI's goal of advancing the peace agenda in Angola started with the provision of technical assistance to the United Nations during the drafting of the *Lusaka Protocol* agreement. Simultaneously, it identified immediate interventions to support the agreement and bring a measure of hope and stability to the country.

OTI's programs focus on: 1) increasing freedom of movement; 2) promoting self-help activities identified by Angolan communities; 3) enabling the flow of accurate, unbiased news and information; and 4) responding to windows of opportunity in other areas, such as macroeconomic policy reform.

Nearly 2 million Angolans have been reached by OTI-supported mine awareness activities, and more than 750 others have received training in mine removal techniques. As a result, mine accidents have been significantly reduced and key areas of the countryside have been re-opened for commerce, agriculture, and the resettlement of refugees and displaced persons. By improving security, these activities have also facilitated the provision of over \$200 million in additional disaster relief, transition, and development activities benefiting several million Angolans.



Millions of land mines litter the Angolan countryside, severely impeding resettlement and recovery efforts. Through an OTI-funded program, this Angolan de-miner marks mines for removal or detonation. (Photo Source: Catherine Haberland)

OTI's Angola program incorporates high levels of community participation and contributions of local resources. In FY 1996, OTI initiated 22 community projects that helped key communities in conflict zones identify and address their own high-priority needs. By the end of FY 1998, 542 projects had been implemented in some 300 communities. These projects included reconstruction and repair of schools, health clinics, markets, roads and bridges, as well as microenterprise development and agricultural support.

Because media can play a critical role in helping a culture of peace take root, OTI helped to start Voice of America (VOA) daily news programming. VOA is the nation's only station offering programming for, by and about Angolans. Its objective radio reporting has made it the most listened to VOA program in the world, with a listenership of 4 million Angolans.

In addition, OTI has supported the training of Angolan journalists in an effort to increase the flow of accurate, uncensored news to the public – and increase awareness of the importance of press freedom.

In July 1995, OTI began awarding grants and contracts to implement major demobilization activities. These activities focused on quartering, civic training, and education for almost 9,500 ex-combatants, including approximately 200 child soldiers.

Despite individual successes, a larger commitment to peaceful change has not taken hold in Angola. In late 1998, both UNITA and the government stepped up military recruitment, and fighting has escalated. A lack of political will on the part of Angola's long-warring leadership remains the obstacle.

OTI's operating partners in Angola have included: Creative Associates, Inc., Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, Search for Common Ground, Africare, CARE, Save the Children, Mine Advisory Group, Norwegian People's Fund, the United Nations Assistance Coordination Group, UNICEF, USAID/Angola, and VOA. OTI's funding partners have included the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and USAID/Angola. Discussions are currently underway with the World Bank, the government of Angola, and U.S. oil companies for additional funding.

OTI Assistance in FY 1997.....\$5,768,000
OTI Assistance in FY 1998.....\$5,118,000*
Total OTI Assistance to Date (FY 94-98).....\$28,539,000
***Includes resources transferred from other government agencies.**

For more information on OTI's activities in Angola, contact Marc Scott, 202-712-0735, mscott@usaid.gov.

COLOMBIA—Forging New Partnerships for Change

After a 50-year civil war that resulted in over 300,000 deaths and more than a million displaced persons, there is hope that Colombia is moving toward peace. With strong support from civil society and the general public, Colombia's recently elected president has initiated a peace process with armed insurgent groups.

The complexity of the violence in Colombia—the large number of actors, the strong position of the insurgents, and emerging paramilitary forces—mitigate against a quick negotiated settlement. The US government's support for the peace process is sought by President Pastrana.

Prior to the initiation of peace talks, OTI financed a workshop that brought together local authorities from the five municipalities identified as "peace laboratories," civil society leaders and national government authorities. For the first time, people from the conflict areas and high-level government negotiators met to design a strategy for the newly created Peace Investment Fund.

Since then, working closely with the USAID regional bureau, the USAID mission and the U.S. Embassy, OTI has identified three openings to facilitate the peace process: (1) strengthening the capacity of the government's High Commission for Peace to negotiate with the insurgents; (2) supporting civil society's ability to sustain pressure on all actors to continue discussions; and (3) supporting the peace process at the municipal level.

OTI's current initiatives predominantly address municipal-level issues, supporting and creating new partnerships between civil society groups and municipal governments. It is supporting a new initiative of the International Committee of the Red Cross that creates a "Peace Fund". Resources from this fund will be channeled to NGOs working in collaboration with municipal governments to deliver critical services to long-neglected communities devastated by years of conflict.

In addition, OTI is partnering with the Salesian Mission in the jungle area of Meta. The Salesian Mission, a presence in Colombia for over a century, has launched a program that helps local governments and communities identify and implement projects that respond to their immediate recovery needs, as well as the needs of displaced persons fleeing from violence.

Together, the ICRC and the Salesian Mission programs reach a large portion of the population most affected by conflict, in locations where public investment historically has been marginal, municipal governments have been fragile, and civil society has lacked the resources to build basic social infrastructures. These programs create exciting new partnerships and enhance the ability of both civil society and local government to respond to community needs.

In doing so, OTI and its partners hope to create and strengthen alternative institutions to guerrilla organizations, instill a sense of hope in the populace, and create confidence in the peace process.

New Country Program

Estimated OTI Assistance FY1999.....\$1,000,000

For more information on OTI's activities in Colombia, contact Bob Kramer, 202-712-5886, HKramer@usaid.gov.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—Moving Past Dictatorship

In May 1997, a brief rebellion overturned the corrupt reign of longtime dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, offering hope to the country's citizens for the first time in decades. Soon after, Laurent Kabila assumed the presidency and the country was renamed the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DROC). With its vast natural resources and the third largest population in Africa, the Congo is key to the stability and economic prosperity of Central Africa and the Great Lakes region.

In light of the country's importance to the continent and the window of opportunity for change that emerged in 1997, OTI quickly established offices in the capital and three provinces. Its goals are to assist the DROC in the transition from an authoritarian regime toward democratic governance by a) promoting local solutions to local problems; and b) providing immediate, tangible, community-wide benefits.

In January 1998, OTI began funding Political Transition Grants (PTGs). These grants bring together diverse groups of people from local government, NGOs and civil society to partner in activities they have agreed are priorities for their communities. Activities funded by OTI have included support for human rights, regional reconciliation conferences, infrastructure repair, public sanitation and erosion control.



OTI supports participatory decision-making processes that help communities identify and act upon their most urgent rehabilitation needs. After decades of neglect, road reconstruction is often their highest priority. This damaged highway between Kananga and Mbuji Mayi is one of the few paved rural roads in the country. (Photo Source: Roger Conrad)



Hopes for rapid and peaceful democratic change were dashed in August 1998, when a new round of violence broke out, and numerous African countries joined in the fighting. OTI closed its Bukavu office due to insecurity. Offices in Kinshasa, Kananga and Lubumbashi remain open and continue activities at a reduced level. OTI is carefully considering its program options in light of the shifting political and military developments.

OTI's operating partners in the Congo are the USAID mission, Development Alternatives, Inc., local Congolese government offices, NGOs, the World Bank, and the American Red Cross.

OTI Assistance in FY 97.....	\$1,069,000
OTI Assistance in FY 98.....	\$7,207,000
Total OTI Assistance to Date (FY 97-98).....	\$8,276,000

For more information on OTI's program in the Congo, contact Roger Conrad, 202-712-5261, rconrad@usaid.gov.

GUATEMALA—Bringing the Peace to Life

In December 1996, thirty years of violent turmoil in Guatemala ended with the signing of a peace accord that established immediate plans for the demobilization and initial incorporation of the rebel forces—the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG)—and reduction of the Guatemalan army. OTI's objective was to provide emergency support to facilitate completion of the demobilization process within the tight timeframe set up by the accords.

Between the signing of the peace accords and the end of the program in December 1998, OTI invested \$6.7 million in Guatemala. Most of that funding supported the demobilization and integration of 2,940 rebel URNG military cadre into civilian society. OTI funded demobilization camps and infrastructure, literacy and civic education programs, vocational training, scholarships, and other integration-related activities. OTI also supported economic integration activities for URNG rebels throughout the country, including agricultural production on three cooperative farms owned by ex-combatants.

OTI, through USAID, was also one of the first donors to pledge support for an ambitious re-training program for 1,722 ex-combatants of the Guatemalan government's Mobile Military Police units—as part of the downsizing of the national military. As a result of OTI's \$730,000 contribution and its ability to leverage additional support, the \$3.4 million project is now fully funded.



Reductions in the size of the Guatemalan military could have been disastrous if training programs had not offered legitimate alternative employment opportunities. These former military combatants are learning how to become tailors. (Photo Source: Heather McHugh)

Alternatives to Crime

Demobilization processes are often accompanied by sharp increases in crime. For this reason, careful attention has been paid to criminal activities of ex-combatants, both former government soldiers and ex-rebels. When OTI closed its program in support of initial integration in Guatemala, none of the ex-combatants trained by its programs had been implicated in criminal activities. Possibly as a result of this relatively stable process of incorporation, Guatemala has thus far successfully avoided retaliation against ex-combatants.

OTI, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the European Union divided costs and responsibilities for a coordinated, collaborative response to demobilization and incorporation needs. This agreement covered the construction of the demobilization camps and was extended to include coverage of other activities, including microenterprise grants to ex-combatants.

In addition, OTI funding helped resettle families who had been internally displaced deep into the mountains, due to fighting between the army and the guerrillas. OTI also provided small infrastructure improvements on the lands where these families were being settled.

Significant collaboration occurred with the International Organization of Migration, UNDP, the government of Guatemala, URNG, the Organization of American States, USAID/Guatemala, the World Bank, and the European Union.

OTI Assistance FY 1997.....	\$4,706,000
OTI Assistance FY 1998.....	\$2,031,000
Total OTI Assistance (FY 97-98).....	\$6,737,000

OTI closed its Guatemala program in December 1998.

For more information on OTI's work in Guatemala, contact Catherine Haberland, 202-712-4458, chaherland@usaid.gov.

HONDURAS—Helping to Rebuild

Hurricane Mitch swept through Honduras in October 1998, devastating the country. Helping Hondurans recover from the severe damage caused by the hurricane will require an extraordinary relief effort and large-scale reconstruction assistance. The dire nature of the situation is dramatically illustrated by the hundreds of families living in temporary shelters like the Honduran Olympic Stadium, where they live below bleachers, in changing rooms, and in tents on the playing fields.

In the capital, where the largest number of people were left homeless, OTI is working closely with the local government to find a permanent housing solution for families who lost their homes in storm flooding. OTI is coordinating donor and NGO meetings and providing technical assistance and funding to overcome hurdles that might otherwise impede replacement housing activities.

OTI funded a national evaluation of short-term employment needs in the worst-hit areas outside the capital. Analysis showed that immediate repairs of key rural roads and bridges would restore private investment and replace lost jobs. OTI is now funding the initial implementation plan for that activity.

In April 1999, an innovative, hybrid voucher/grant program was initiated by OTI, in cooperation with USAID/Honduras and the International Organization for Migration, to help 2,000 displaced families living in “macro-shelters” like the Olympic Stadium. Beneficiaries of this program will receive a voucher for an amount of money that can be applied toward a more permanent housing solution. The amount is insufficient to pay for a complete solution, but will motivate NGOs with housing programs to prioritize shelter for voucher recipients. The NGOs will “cash-in” the vouchers and use the funding to improve their projects and infrastructure.

OTI and the mission are also working with other multilateral donors to design an effective oversight mechanism to identify and report on potential misuse, abuse, and fraud associated with reconstruction activities. Finalization of this program is still under discussion with the government of Honduras.

New Country Program

Estimated OTI Assistance FY 1999 \$5,000,000

For more information on OTI's Honduras project, contact Catherine Haberland, 202-712-4458, chaberland@usaid.gov.



INDONESIA—Bolstering Reform

In late 1997, a devastating economic crisis and a series of natural disasters crippled Indonesia's capacity to provide for even the most basic needs of millions of its citizens. The country suddenly faced rampant food shortages, massive unemployment, and skyrocketing crime. Endemic cronyism favoring members of President Suharto's family and well-connected businessmen had long been a source of popular discontent, but in the face of widespread economic hardship, it provoked outrage and civil violence.

Several months of peaceful demonstrations erupted into violent rioting when security forces killed four unarmed students. Much of the ensuing violence was directed at ethnic-Chinese Indonesians. In May 1998, after 32 years of rule, President Suharto resigned, transferring the presidency to his vice president, B.J. Habibie. National elections are scheduled to occur June 7, 1999.

These are precarious times for Indonesia. Significant demands for rapid political change are being made and the dangers of social violence are great. OTI activities seek to advance the national debate on the political transition towards genuine democratic governance.

Faced with a country of 210 million people dispersed across thousands of islands, OTI has supported a broad-scale national media campaign to accelerate the democratic transition and to reinforce peaceful reform messages. Polling conducted on public service announcements, produced as part of the campaign, indicates that Indonesian viewers understand the messages and are thinking about them.

Building a strategy focused on core reform issues, OTI works to:

- Increase the participation of grassroots organizations in the voter education process;
- Support the capacity of civil society organizations to mobilize for peaceful political participation;
- Increase the capacity of media to cover political processes; and,
- Improve relations between military and civil organizations.



The crew of prominent Indonesian director Garin Nugroho beginning production of OTI-funded television public service announcements on non-violence. (Photo Source: Garin Nugroho Art staff member)

OTI's partners in Indonesia include the USAID mission, the U.S. Embassy, the Asia Foundation, Internews, PACT, and a local NGO (Lembaga Penelitian, Pendidikan dan Penerangan Ekonomi dan Sosial). OTI's cooperative agreements with these organizations were designed to give local non-governmental organizations the flexibility to respond rapidly to the changing needs and opportunities for democratic reform. Additionally, OTI is directly supporting many other reform-minded local organizations. Operational support is provided by Development Alternatives, Inc. through the SWIFT mechanism.

New Country Program

OTI Estimated Assistance FY1998..... \$4,799,000
OTI Estimated Assistance FY1999..... \$15,000,000

For more information on OTI's program in Indonesia, contact Jim Lehman, 202-712-5603, jlehman@usaid.gov; or Chris Phillips, 202-712-0959, cphillips@usaid.gov.

LIBERIA—Giving Peace a Chance

Seven years of brutal conflict in Liberia left 200,000 dead and 40% of the population displaced. After 13 failed peace accords, and nearly \$1 billion of humanitarian assistance from the United States, Liberian warlords agreed to a ceasefire and a national election that brought Charles Taylor to power in 1997.

In a country where institutional capacity and physical infrastructure have been severely diminished, OTI moved quickly to enhance stability and democratic processes by: (1) supporting the demobilization and reintegration of ex-fighters through quick, temporary employment opportunities; (2) creating alternative news outlets and supporting dissemination of objective information; and (3) supporting economic reform efforts.

Immediately following demobilization, OTI funded civil reconstruction teams, coordinated by the United Nations Development Program, which provided temporary jobs for approximately 10,000 ex-fighters. Job activities included clearing or repairing urban and rural roads, and refurbishing schools and clinics. These employment opportunities helped keep ex-fighters productively engaged in the reconstruction process while other Liberian citizens were able to feel more secure.

OTI initiated media activities in Liberia in 1997 when it co-funded STAR Radio with USAID's Africa Bureau. STAR Radio was created as a new independent short wave and FM radio station serving all of Liberia and the border regions. A respected source of information for all Liberians, it has raised standards of news reporting and become an important test-case for freedom of the press. After closing the radio station in 1998, the Liberian government allowed it back on the air in response to pressure from Liberian civic organizations, the donor community and the U.S. Embassy.

Also in 1997, OTI partnered with the Dutch government in support of a Liberian media production facility, Talking Drum Studio. This studio produced voter information and civic education programs that were aired on eight Liberian radio stations, as well as live community drama shows.

To inform Liberians about the rapidly changing election process, OTI provided a grant to purchase 2,640 wind-up (no



Talking Drum Studio journalist Barbara Koffa conducting an interview. (Photo Source: Search for Common Ground)

batteries or electricity needed) short-wave AM/FM radios for distribution to electoral polling sites and community groups.

In an effort to establish base-line information from which to build sound economic policy, OTI funded a monetary audit of the National Bank of Liberia. This work is coordinated with the World Bank and IMF, who financed a fiscal audit.

Most recently, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy, OTI fielded a human rights expert to monitor treason trials and assess the progress of rule of law in Liberia. This activity contributed to the formulation of U.S. foreign policy in post-conflict Liberia.

All aspects of OTI's activities have involved close collaboration with other donors and partners, including the Dutch government, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, Foundation Hironnelle, Search for Common Ground, UNDP, and the European Union.

OTI Assistance FY 1997.....	\$1,715,000
OTI Assistance FY 1998	\$419,000
Total OTI Assistance (FY96–FY98).....	\$2,210,000

For more information on OTI's program in Liberia, contact Sylvia Fletcher, 202-712-5755, sfletcher@usaid.gov; or Rob Jenkins, 202-712-0914, rjenkins@usaid.gov.